



MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES
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News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Grand Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve Launches New Web site

BILOXI, Miss. –The Department of Marine Resource's Grand Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR) has just launched its new Web site: www.grandbaynerr.org.

The new Web site is designed to provide its visitors with general information about estuaries, specific information about Mississippi's estuaries and coastal habitats, as well as detailed information about the education, research and stewardship activities that take place at the reserve. Current weather and water quality data gathered in the reserve are also available.

"When we designed this Web site, we really tried to keep in mind the needs of our community," said Jennifer Buchanan, Education Coordinator for the Reserve. "We have included sections that are of interest to all audiences including students, teachers, coastal decision-makers, researchers and recreational users." Buchanan encourages the community to provide feedback to the reserve regarding the Web site.

"We are especially looking for items of historical information and pictures regarding the lands of the reserve, so that we can add them to the Web site to make it more historically relevant," said Buchanan.

If you have ideas for enhancing the Web site, please provide your input through the feedback section of the Web site. For more information, contact Jennifer Buchanan at jen.buchanan@dmr.state.ms.us or (228) 475-7047.

The Grand Bay Reserve is located near the community of Pecan in southeast Jackson County and includes wild lands and waterways from Bangs Lake to the Alabama state line. A major goal of the Reserve is to provide for research coordination and dissemination of scientific data to the community and local decision-makers to provide sound information on which to base management decisions. The 18,000+-acre reserve is home to several rare plant and animal species and serves as an essential nursery habitat for numerous important commercial and recreational fish species. The Reserve is managed through state-federal partnership between the Department of Marine Resources and its partners—Mississippi Secretary of State's Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Mississippi State University, The University of Southern Mississippi, The Nature Conservancy and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

—MORE—

The Mississippi Department of Marine Resources is dedicated to enhancing, protecting and conserving marine interests of the State by managing all marine life, public trust wetlands, adjacent uplands and waterfront areas to provide for the optimal commercial, recreational, educational and economic uses of these resources consistent with environmental concerns and social changes. Visit the DMR online at www.dmr.state.ms.us.

PHOTO CREDIT: Photo courtesy of Mississippi Department of Marine Resources

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Grand Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve

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*"Study nature, love nature,
stay close to nature. It will
never fail you."*
- Frank Lloyd Wright (1868-1959)

Biodiversity Profile



Juncus roemerianus
Black Needlerush



Announcements

Grand Bay NERR Receives Award!

Vice Admiral Conrad C. Lautenbacher, Jr., U.S. Navy (Ret.), NOAA Administrator, was in attendance when the Grand Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve recently received a third place Gulf Guardian Award for 2005 in the Partnerships Category for their "Grand Bay Bioblitz."

